

1 (B) Contracting policies of the Department
2 with respect to providing hearing health serv-
3 ices to veterans in facilities that are not facili-
4 ties of the Department.

5 (2) TIMELY ACCESS TO SERVICES.—Each re-
6 port shall, with respect to the matter specified in
7 paragraph (1)(A) for the one-year period preceding
8 the submittal of such report, include the following:

9 (A) The staffing levels of audiologists,
10 hearing aid specialists, and health technicians
11 in audiology in the Veterans Health Adminis-
12 tration.

13 (B) A description of the metrics used by
14 the Secretary in measuring performance with
15 respect to appointments and care relating to
16 hearing health.

17 (C) The average time that a veteran waits
18 to receive an appointment, beginning on the
19 date on which the veteran makes the request,
20 for the following:

21 (i) A disability rating evaluation for a
22 hearing-related disability.

23 (ii) A hearing aid evaluation.

24 (iii) Dispensing of hearing aids.

1 (iv) Any follow-up hearing health ap-
2 pointment.

3 (D) The percentage of veterans whose total
4 wait time for appointments described in sub-
5 paragraph (C), including an initial and follow-
6 up appointment, if applicable, is—

7 (i) less than 15 days;

8 (ii) between 15 days and 28 days;

9 (iii) between 29 days and 42 days;

10 (iv) between 43 days and 56 days; or

11 (v) more than 56 days.

12 (3) CONTRACTING POLICIES.—Each report
13 shall, with respect to the matter specified in para-
14 graph (1)(B) for the one-year period preceding the
15 submittal of such report, include the following:

16 (A) The number of veterans that the Sec-
17 retary refers to non-Department audiologists
18 for hearing health care appointments.

19 (B) The number of veterans that the Sec-
20 retary refers to non-Department hearing aid
21 specialists for follow-up appointments for a
22 hearing aid evaluation, the dispensing of hear-
23 ing aids, or any other purpose relating to hear-
24 ing health.

1 (C) The policies of the Veterans Health
2 Administration regarding the referral of vet-
3 erans to non-Department hearing aid specialists
4 and a description of the manner in which such
5 policies will be applied under the Patient-Cen-
6 tered Community Care program of the Depart-
7 ment.

